

## IOCE survey of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs)

### I. Basic profile information

<b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>	<b>WEBEN – Western Balkan Evaluators Network</b>
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b> (See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)	<b>Regional (multi-national)</b> including Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Romania (observer status)
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Names and e-addresses of up to three contact persons: 1: Administrator: <a href="mailto:bradej@gmail.com">bradej@gmail.com</a> 2: VOPE, Coordinator of the Board of National Representatives (2014-2015): Peter Medica (Slovenian Evaluation Society), <a href="mailto:peter.medica@gmail.com">peter.medica@gmail.com</a> Postal address of VOPE: - Telephone: - VOPE website URL: <a href="http://www.sdeval.si/WEBEN">http://www.sdeval.si/WEBEN</a> (from March 2014)
<b>4. a. Current formal/registered membership</b> – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total) <b>4. b. Informal membership</b> (persons on your mailing list)	Informal network, 200 members on mailing list, 160 Forum members (LinkedIn) <b>a. Total official membership:</b> 7 evaluation communities from 6 nations, adopted an agreement on formation of the Regional Network: Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (2 communities), Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia. Romania (ADER) has joined the WEBEN and is active member with the observer status. <b>b. Total informal membership:</b> 200 (Western Balkan Members) + 90 (non Western Balkan Members, English speaking)
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	2013.
<b>6. Current status</b> (identify which)	<b>Informal network</b>
<b>7. Information about growth:</b> evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Established in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 27. September 2013. WEBEN will not be financially operational. WEBEN's operation will be financed by the managing evaluation community (currently by Slovenian Evaluation Society).
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	<b>Vision:</b> WEBEN will be a central platform of knowledge and experience in the field of monitoring and evaluation, based on partnership in strengthening capacity and knowledge. <b>Mission:</b> Advocacy and promotion of theory and practice in monitoring and evaluation, linking interested parties in the field, exchange of experiences, promotion of shared efforts in preparation and implementation of activities, respecting the highest standards of quality and professionalism.
<b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>	<b>Work plan for 2014-2015:</b> Enlargement of the network with members from Kosovo. Support to enhance activity of societies in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia. Organisation of the first WEBEN conference in 2015.
<b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	<b>Governance structure:</b> Board, consisting of representatives of national evaluation communities. <b>Leadership:</b> Board elects a coordinator. Rotation between active board members. <b>Services provided:</b> Day to day communication among the board member. Occasional Newsletter, Forum on LinkedIn, Homepage, and biannual regional conference (planned). <b>Finances:</b> Slovenian Evaluation Society (April 2014 - December 2015). <b>Human resources:</b> Day to day operation of WEBEN is mostly limited to activity of network administrator who contributes in voluntary way. <b>Linkages with other organizations:</b> WEBEN is a member of IOCE.
<b>11. Means of communication with members</b> , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	E-mail ( <a href="mailto:bradej@gmail.com">bradej@gmail.com</a> ), newsletter, forum, website ( <a href="http://www.sdeval.si/WEBEN">http://www.sdeval.si/WEBEN</a> ), meetings.
<b>12. Past events</b> (e.g. during past year)	September 2013: the first regional meeting (Sarajevo), WEBEN is established. October 2013: meeting between Slovenian Evaluation Society and ADER in Bucharest (Romania), deciding about joining Romanian evaluators to the WEBEN as observers. November 2013: Slovenian Evaluation Society initiates a meeting in Zagreb

	(Croatia) on which Croatian Network of Evaluators is established. November 2013: Evaluation society from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHeval) organises BALDET (IPDET) training in Sarajevo. January 2014: The second regional meeting of WEBEN (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location</b>	Slovenian Evaluation Society plans joint evaluation event in Zagreb, Croatia (with Croatian evaluation network) and in Belgrade, Serbia (with several partners). Croatian evaluation network plans launching of first projects in the area of evaluation standards, ethics, research and education. Starting preparation for the conference in 2015.
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Bojan Radej, <a href="mailto:bradej@gmail.com">bradej@gmail.com</a>
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	5. February 2014

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p><b>1. Background:</b> Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).</p> <p>1.1 Who were/are the key players?</p> <p>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/committee?</p> <p>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?</p> <p>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?</p>	<p>1.1 Key players:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Serbian Monitoring and Evaluation Professionals ASMEP (<a href="http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-Serbian-Monitoring-Evaluation-Professionals-4411490">http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-Serbian-Monitoring-Evaluation-Professionals-4411490</a>)</li> <li>• Udruženje evaluatora u Bosni i Hercegovini/Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina Evaluation Society (BHeval) (<a href="http://www.bheval.com/index.php/en/">http://www.bheval.com/index.php/en/</a>).</li> <li>• Crna Gora/Montenegro (representative Dragiša Mijačić, <a href="mailto:dmijacic@lokalnirazvoj.org">dmijacic@lokalnirazvoj.org</a>).</li> <li>• Hrvatska mreža evaluatora/Croatian Evaluation Network (<a href="http://www.regio-hr.com">www.regio-hr.com</a>).</li> <li>• Makedonija/Macedonia (representative Sonja Andonova, <a href="mailto:sonja.andonova@giz.de">sonja.andonova@giz.de</a>).</li> <li>• Udruženje evaluatora Srbije/Serbian Evaluation Association (<a href="http://www.evalserbia.com">http://www.evalserbia.com</a>).</li> <li>• Slovensko društvo evaluatorjev/Slovenian Evaluation Society (<a href="http://www.sdeval.si">http://www.sdeval.si</a>).</li> <li>• ADER - Asociația pentru Dezvoltarea Evaluării, Romanian member, as an observer (<a href="http://www.ader-evaluare.ro">http://www.ader-evaluare.ro</a>).</li> </ul> <p>1.2 Active 5, Passive 2.</p> <p>1.3 Low barrier in communication (similar languages), comparable national contexts and challenges. Only in regional cooperation it is possible to create 'critical mass' of members and activity. Traditional links with strong cooperative potential are reconstructed in a post-conflict region. There is capacity and demand for transfer of experiences within the region – not only from more to less advanced communities but between all members because of their different backgrounds and autonomous ambitions.</p> <p>1.4 All regional member operate in inconsiderate national environments, which demand disproportionally high voluntary contribution for day to day operation of evaluation communities.</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>To mobilise a critical mass of evaluators and activity in the region. Networking, social capital building, researching for shared interests and cooperative potential.</p> <p>Initiator of regional cooperation is Slovenian Evaluation Society who prepared a project proposal (p2p project of EvalPartners, IOCE, 2012) with Bosnian Evaluation Society – and then invited all other national representatives in the region to participate in the project.</p>
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building<sup>1</sup>:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<p>Some members of WEBEN have already considerably contributed to promotion of evaluation capacity in their environments. The most important projects in this regard are: IPDET (BALDET) seminars in Sarajevo (2011, 2013), publishing a book on evaluation (SiES) which is recognised as one</p>

<sup>1</sup> By evaluation capacity we refer to the capacity of individuals to produce credible and useful evaluations (supply side), but also to institutional capacities to call for and utilize evaluations (demand side).

	<p>among scientific achievements of the year 2012 in Slovenia by national agency for research. Two Serbian representatives and representative from Montenegro are also active in the field of networking and promotion of evaluation capacity.</p> <p>WEBEN has been organising lectures and presentation on regional meetings or in bilateral meetings between only two national evaluation communities. Publishing of articles, Forum.</p>
<p><b>4. Context / target entities:</b> More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p> <p>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</p> <p>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</p> <p>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</p> <p>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&amp;E systems, etc.</p>	<p>4.1 IPDET training. Workshops with thematic purpose involving concerned public on the expert level. One day seminars on integral instruments in structural policy (Slovenian Evaluation Society). Cooperation with government organisations in evaluation.</p> <p>4.2 Organisational capacity is mainly located at the member level. WEBEN as a network has only smaller operational capacity necessary for the implementation of the work plan.</p> <p>4.3 This is not among the main issues in WEBEN's vision and mission but is embedded in its operation which aims to increase demand for evaluation.</p> <p>4.4 The main events organised by WEBEN take place at high level of national representatives so it is easier to attract public attention and participation of key stakeholders at this events. These high level event create opportunities for 'lobbying' for evaluation in direct contact with the main stakeholders – which is always not available when evaluation events are organised locally only by one member community.</p>
<p><b>5. Public accountability:</b> Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?</p>	<p>This is not among the main issues in WEBEN's vision and mission but is embedded in its operation which aims to increase public accountability.</p>
<p><b>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate?</b> For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	<p>No, not on the level of WEBEN.</p>
<p><b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organizing workshops led by local experts;</li> <li>• organizing webinars with international speakers;</li> <li>• designing and delivering e-learning programmes;</li> <li>• administering mentoring programmes; etc.</li> </ul>	<p>IPDET training in Sarajevo (Bosnian evaluation Society)</p> <p>Slovenian evaluation Society is providing mentoring program to students and to CSOs.</p> <p>Organizing workshops led by local experts.</p> <p>WEBEN is planning to organise biannual regional conferences.</p>
<p><b>8. Standards:</b> Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to</p>	<p>Not planned at the regional level; different approaches in different countries.</p>

those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	
<b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Project partner search. Job search as a part of LinkedIn Forum.
<b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?	As described previously. See also IOCE questionnaires for individual network members.
<b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	Avoid prevailing top down approach in the international evaluation networks dominated by Anglo-Saxon tradition and build on local needs and capacities, bottom up. Focus on content, minimise administration, increase transparency and trust, remain flexible, progress in small steps which must be justified in a long-term perspective (sustainable impacts), and develop decentralised structures. And work persistently and hard.
<b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?	Organise two bilateral meetings between WEBEN members. Organise one day seminar on integrative instruments in new structural policy in Slovenia (23.IV.2014)
<b>13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?</b> For example, would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share lessons learned, advise each other? If so, describe what you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.	We are transparent, our outcomes are published and freely available. We are open for conducting new partnerships for sharing knowledge. A specific effort will be made in the future by WEBEN to link regional networks of evaluators in Europe. More specific possibilities should be consulted in responses to questionnaires of individual members of WEBEN.
<b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of IOCE and the EvalPartners Initiative?	Our experience is that p2p project under EvalPartner initiative (2012) has been literally ideal form of support in our undertakings. In particular because of excellent timing (pure luck) and also because of administrative simplicity of the project demands. We are the most heartedly in favour of continuation of this kind of projects which maximise effectiveness so that the value added far outweighs the financial input.
<b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in IOCE and EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	We would like to be included on the e-mailing list.
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	Lets see about this at the end of 2015.